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REMARKS

In the Action, the drawings were objected to because the "intermediate portion" in claims 40 and 45 were not shown. However, the Applicants respectfully disagree as Figure 1A clearly shows the intermediate portion identified with reference character 20.

Claims 35-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Oliver (U.S. Patent No. 2,031,384) and Harmala (U.S. Patent No. 5,320,386). None of the cited art, whether taken individually or in any permissible combination, discloses the polygon cross-sectional shape of the tube and the bore as recited in claims 35 and 45. Further, none of the cited art discloses the claimed reinforcing inserts offset from an intermediate portion of the hollow tube. For these reasons alone, it is submitted that the claims 35-48 are nonobvious and allowable notwithstanding Oliver and Harmala.

In rejecting claims 35-48, it was stated that the Applicant did not disclose that forming the handle in a polygon shape or with two inserts provides an advantage. However, in the original disclosure, the reinforced lacrosse handle is utilized for attachment to a lacrosse head. In this respect, the handle has a polygon cross-sectional shape for attaching to the head and providing a more robust lacrosse stick, as compared with conventional lacrosse sticks. In addition, the two claimed inserts are offset from the intermediate portion of the tube for minimizing the weight of the handle.

In the Action, it was stated that the Harmala handle performs the same function as the claimed handle as a means for holding and using a lacrosse head. However, as stated above, Harmala does not disclose the polygon cross-sectional shape for attachment to a lacrosse head. Harmala also does not disclose the reinforcing inserts offset from the intermediate portion of the handle for minimizing the weight of the handle.

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In view of the foregoing, all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 35-48, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the cited references. Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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